

STATE GOVERNMENT NEWS

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CONTINUITY OF GOVERNMENT

The Office of Civil and Defense Mobilization has reported on the status, as of April 18, of continuity of government legislation in the 1961 state legislative sessions pertaining to succession to office or relocation of government.

The following states -- Arkansas, Kansas, Maine, New Hampshire, North Dakota, West Virginia and Wyoming -- approved measures providing for succession to the office of Governor. Measures for other executive branch succession were passed in Arkansas, Kansas, Maine, New Hampshire, North Dakota, South Dakota and West Virginia.

Legislation for succession to legislative offices was approved in Arkansas, Kansas, Maine, New Hampshire, North Dakota and South Dakota. Measures for succession to judicial offices have been passed by Arkansas, Kansas, Maine, New Hampshire, North Dakota and West Virginia, and laws for succession to local offices have been approved by Arkansas, Kansas, Maine, New Hampshire, North Dakota, South Dakota, Tennessee and West Virginia.

For relocation of state and local government there have been enactments by Arkansas, Kansas, Maine, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Dakota and South Dakota. In addition, Indiana, Tennessee and West Virginia have approved measures for relocation of local governments.

STATE CONSTITUTIONS

Constitutional Convention -- Hearings have been held in different parts of Pennsylvania on a State Senate bill to place the question of calling a constitutional convention before the voters in November. The convention, if authorized, would meet in January, 1962, and conclude its sessions by February 1, 1963.

The legislature has approved for the second time a proposed amendment to the constitution to permit the Governor, except the present one, to be reelected for one additional term. Presently a Governor cannot succeed himself in Pennsylvania. The proposal will be submitted to the electorate for vote in November.

Constitutional Amendments -- Wisconsin voters approved four constitutional amendments at an election on April 4.

One changes the debt limit of certain school districts, from 5 per cent of the value of the taxable property in a school district, as equalized for state purposes, to 10 per cent. Another authorizes the legislature to provide for succession to public office in case of a military disaster.

The third amendment authorizes the legislature to prescribe the manner in which a municipal corporation shall take private property for public use. The fourth authorizes taxation of manufacturers' materials and finished products and livestock in a manner different from the taxation of real property and other personal property. It provides that all such material be taxed uniformly and allows the use of a method of average valuation in its taxation.

Study of Constitutions -- The National Municipal League has recently published a study by Professor Farrel Heady of the University of Michigan, concerning the administrative powers of the Governor, State Constitutions: The Structure of Administration. The volume, of 50 pages, is one of five studies conducted by the League to provide background for the preparation of a general study of state constitutional problems, and for the sixth edition of the organization's widely used Model State Constitution.

The report discusses the increasing numbers of elective officials and the sub-

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sequent increase in semi-independent boards and commissions. This situation, it indicates, has prevented governorships from exercising adequately effective and responsible policy and administrative leadership. A particular focus of the report is the role the state constitution plays as to the office of Governor.

The report is available from the National Municipal League, 47 East 68th Street, New York, New York, at \$1.50.

LEGISLATIVE SESSIONS

Indiana -- Indiana's biennial session of the legislature which convened January 5 and adjourned March 7, approved a record state budget of more than \$1.1 billion for operations and capital improvements in 1961-63.

A new Department of Administration was created to be responsible for purchasing, property maintenance, travel authorization, surety and performance bonding of officials, construction of public works and central services. Administrative functions formerly under the jurisdiction of the Personnel Bureau were transferred to the new department. A Personnel Board will continue to exercise its powers and duties with respect to the merit system. The Department of Administration will be headed by a Commissioner appointed by and responsible to the Governor.

The structures of the State Budget Division and the State Budget Committee were altered. A new Budget Agency, similar to the Budget Division, and a revised Budget Committee were created. A Department of Central Data Processing was organized in the Budget Agency, and the legislature appropriated \$655,000 for it. Its chief functions will be centralization of statistical services and data processing and review of all machine tabulating and computer installations.

A four-member bipartisan highway commission was created to serve on a part-time basis in a policy-making capacity. It replaces a three-member highway commission. Administrative direction of the state's highway programs will be under a full-time Executive Director appointed by the Governor.

Salaries for elected state officials were increased from \$15,000 to \$25,000 for the Governor, from \$11,500 to \$18,000 for the Attorney General and Superintendent of Public Instruction, and from \$11,500 to \$16,500 for the Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, State Auditor and Treasurer.

A series of enactments dealt with reform of state and local tax administration. An excise tax of 2 per cent of the list price of motor vehicles and mobile homes was adopted, payable when license tags are purchased; formerly these were taxed in the same manner as other property. Audit divisions were created in the State Board of Tax Commis-

sioners and the Revenue Department. Household goods, previously taxed in the same manner as other property, will be assessed at 5 per cent of the assessed value of the homes in which they are located. And the due date for the state gross income tax on real estate sales was changed to coincide with the time of recording of deeds. A Commission on State Tax and Financing was directed to study possible new revenue sources.

The Department of Corrections and the parole system were reorganized. Under the reorganization a Commissioner of Corrections is appointed by the Governor for a four-year term. The Commissioner will administer the department and be assisted by an advisory council of seven. Included under the Commissioner's jurisdiction are a Parole Board, the Division of Probation, the Division of Prison Industries and Farms, and the Division of Classification and Treatment. A new full-time Parole Board of three members, appointed by the Commissioner with the approval of the Governor, replaces three former part-time boards for the state prison, the reformatory and the boys' school. The legislature appropriated \$2 million for construction of an intermediate medium security institution, the Indiana Youth Center.

The State Health Department was reorganized, and the Division of Mental Health was raised to departmental status with two new divisions under it, one for mental health and one for mental retardation.

The legislature added to the welfare program a new category of assistance under which anyone over 18 who is permanently and totally disabled may qualify. Another act extends eligibility for medical care under Old Age Assistance to aged persons who are medically indigent only and who could not otherwise qualify under the welfare law.

A new law requires use of the full value of property, instead of assessed valuation, as the basis for figuring the maximum amount allowable for local bond issues under the state constitution's 2 per cent limitation. It applies to school corporations, municipal corporations, and other political subdivisions of the state. The new measure is expected to provide three times as much bonding power.

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A constitutional amendment was proposed to remove a limitation on county sheriffs' terms of office. It would provide that no individual may serve more than eight years during any twelve-year period. The amendment must be approved by a subsequent session of the legislature before submission to the electorate.

New York -- The New York legislature adjourned March 25 after approving appropriations of \$2,408 million for the fiscal year that began April 1, 1961. This included \$27.9 million in state aid to public school districts; \$40 million for expansion of medical care to the needy aged; and a general adjustment of state employees' salaries, to cost \$33.7 million.

A 10 per cent rebate on personal income taxes on 1960 earnings was approved. Another tax measure granted nonresidents subject to state income tax the right to itemize deductions, effective for taxes on earnings after January 1, 1961. Other tax measures revised the corporation franchise tax, a change expected to save manufacturers with their main plants in the state about \$16 million; increased the tax on real estate companies, to yield \$14 million; and exempted from real estate tax the value of fall-out shelters up to \$100 for each person to be accommodated in a shelter. A 15 per cent tax on cigars and tobacco products other than cigarettes was repealed, effective July 1.

The salaries of members of the legislature were raised from \$7,500 to \$10,000 a year. Expense allowances for legislators were increased from \$1,000 to \$2,500. Other state employees' salaries were raised, including increases up to \$5,000 for commissioners of state departments.

The legislature established a scholar incentive program providing \$100 to \$300 a year, depending on family income, to New York residents attending a college in the state. The law applies to students paying tuition of \$200 a year or more. The number of state scholarships was increased from 7,100 to 17,000.

In other action the legislature established a central registry in the Social Welfare Department. Its functions will be to aid in locating fathers of abandoned children receiving public assistance. The legislature authorized the state to participate in the federal program of aid to children of unemployed parents. A two stage adoption procedure was established to give children involved in private adoptions the same protection as children placed by welfare agencies.

The legislature authorized issuance of drivers' licenses from which records of convictions for violations could be detached. The operator would not be required to show a list of violations to policemen. It established penalties of up to \$2,000 and two

months imprisonment on conviction for leaving the scene of an accident. The motor vehicle law was amended to provide that suspended sentences for speeding convictions shall not be applied in determining grounds for suspension or revocation of operators' licenses.

The legislature granted \$8.6 million in tax and other relief to commuter railroads. It approved for the second time a constitutional amendment creating a Business Development Authority with authority to issue obligations backed by \$50 million in state credit. The proposal now will be submitted to the voters.

The legislature ratified the Delaware River Basin Compact, a four-state agreement for the development of water resources. It approved state aid to municipalities for water pollution control and authorized the state's participation in the New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Compact.

TAX AND FISCAL AFFAIRS

State Spending -- The Bureau of the Census, United States Department of Commerce, has reported that state governments spent more than \$31.5 billion in fiscal 1960. The total includes more than \$3.4 billion paid as benefits in unemployment compensation, employee retirement and other state insurance trust systems.

State revenue in 1960 was more than \$32.8 billion. General revenue, excluding insurance trust and liquor stores amounts, totaled \$27.3 billion, or almost 12 per cent more than in 1959. Of this amount state taxes provided nearly two-thirds; one-fourth was intergovernmental revenue, mainly federal aid; and charges and miscellaneous non-tax sources produced about one-tenth.

State tax revenue amounted to more than \$18 billion in fiscal 1960, a gain of almost 14 per cent over the 1959 figure. Per capita amounts of spending for major governmental functions included \$49.60 for education, \$40.98 for highways, \$20.74 for public welfare and \$9.85 for hospitals.

State debt outstanding rose more than 9 per cent during fiscal 1960 to a new high of \$18.5 billion. From 1959 to 1960, the bureau reports, general revenue was up in each of the states except Oklahoma and New Mexico; general expenditure increased in thirty-seven states; and the volume of debt outstanding was up in thirty-six states.

State Income Tax -- A joint session of the Massachusetts legislature, sitting as a state constitutional convention, has approved for submission to the voters at the 1962 general election a constitutional amendment that would allow imposition of a graduated state income tax. An amendment to the constitution must

receive approval by two sessions of the legislature and be ratified by a majority vote on the amendment by the electorate.

Withholding Tax Approved -- Minnesota recently became the twenty-fourth state to adopt a withholding system of collecting state income taxes. The law will go into effect January 1, 1962. The measure provides for total forgiveness of one year's individual income tax. Forgiveness will be calculated when 1961 taxes are due, on either 1960 or 1961 income, whichever is less.

Federal Grants -- A recent Tennessee law authorizes the Governor to accept grants from the federal government on behalf of the state and to designate the proper state agency to administer the program. It gives the state specific authority to participate immediately in new federal programs. It also permits the Governor to transfer responsibility for individual federal-state programs from one agency to another.

Low Interest Bonds -- Governor Buford Ellington of Tennessee recently announced that the state was able to sell a \$15.6 million bond issue at 3.15 per cent. This interest rate was the lowest on an issue of the state since 1958. Proceeds from the sale of the bonds will finance highway construction, a building program at the University of Tennessee, and other institutions of higher education. Allowing for bond payments soon to be made, the state's total bond indebtedness on July 1, 1961 will aggregate a little over \$125 million.

EDUCATION

Airborne Television -- The Midwest Program on Airborne Television Instruction was scheduled to get under way early in May. Equipment tests were to be conducted from May 8 to 11. This will give an opportunity for schools within the telecast range to test a signal and adjust receiving equipment.

Lesson telecasts were to begin on May 15. They will consist of sample courses to be telecast in full in September. A special program will be telecast during the summer, offering professional assistance to classroom teachers and administrators attending a series of workshops throughout the Midwest. These telecasts will be devoted primarily to the subject of classroom utilization of instructional television.

The Midwest Program also plans telecasts of secondary and elementary level courses at summer schools if a survey of participating schools shows an interest in them.

School Transportation -- The Alaska State Supreme Court has ruled in a 2 to 1 decision that school transportation is a state benefit which cannot be accorded to private school children. A dissenting opinion maintained that to grant assistance to some children and deny it to others "embodies the element of unfair treatment which is so foreign to our American tradition."

The majority decision upset an original ruling of the United States District Court in Fairbanks, made in February, 1960, when federal courts had original jurisdiction in state cases while Alaska established its juridical system. In a suit filed on behalf of a girl attending a private school, the court was asked to require the state to provide her with transportation between her home and school -- both situated on a public school bus route. The state did not object to the girl's riding the bus, though there was a public school near her home which she could attend. But the state contended that she could be disembarked only at the public school the bus served, not at the private school she attended. In the original ruling, the District Court ordered that the girl and other children attending the same private school be transported by public school bus and discharged at the private school.

HEALTH, WELFARE

Insurance for Aged -- The Connecticut legislature has approved a measure authorizing insurance companies in the state to join in issuing a new type of health insurance for persons over 65 years old.

Under the measure any resident of the state who is 65 or over is eligible to participate, if he is not confined to a hospital or similar institution. It provides benefits up to \$10,000, covering a wide range of medical care expenses, and offers protection against the financial burden of a very long illness or serious accident.

Welfare Payments -- The Utah Public Welfare Commission has announced a new program to adjust payments for welfare recipients in nursing homes on the basis of attention received. Instead of a flat payment to nursing homes of \$110 per patient, regardless of attention received, the Commission will rate welfare patients in four classes ranging from minimum care to almost constant bedside attention. Payments are set at \$120, \$145, \$170 and \$200. Any income or retirement benefits received by welfare patients will go to the state to offset part of the cost of their care.

Operation of the program is expected to add an average of \$15 per patient or a total of more than \$21,000 to state welfare costs.

MENTAL HEALTH

Admissions Procedure -- The Oregon Board of Control has announced plans for instituting a broader approach in the state's mental health program. First step in the process is establishment of a new Department of Admissions at Oregon State Hospital.

Under the plan, a four-man team will screen all voluntary admissions to the hospital, work with families of all new patients to determine how they can be involved usefully in the treatment process, and give consultative service to doctors, courts and other agencies concerning admissions and admission procedures.

With operation of the new department, the board anticipates that some patients who formerly would have been admitted to the hospital will be treated instead at outpatient clinics.

Disturbed Children -- The Kentucky Department of Mental Health has announced plans for a residential school for emotionally disturbed children. The school will be constructed under a \$1.9 million grant by the National Institute of Mental Health. Kentucky, Tennessee and the George Peabody College for Teachers in Tennessee will share the grant for an eight-year administrative project.

The plan calls for establishment of a school in Kentucky and another in Tennessee to reeducate emotionally disturbed children. The two states will receive grants of \$656,000 each. The remainder will go to George Peabody College for teacher training, basic research on problems of disturbed children, and a study of the effect of the schools in helping children adjust to their families and regular schools.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Wisconsin Plan -- Governor Gaylord A. Nelson of Wisconsin has outlined a ten-year program to save and enlarge the state's outdoor resources.

The Governor termed the plan a "prudent investment" for the future. He urged that the state be empowered to use easement on a far broader scale than any state has done -- providing right to use privately-owned land for various purposes while title to the land stays in the hands of the original owner. As an example, the Governor noted that the state, under this plan, could buy the right to prevent unsightly billboards, or to have access to a lake, stream or beauty spot.

Other aspects of the plan would provide for zoning on a broad scale and the outright purchase of land. The program would enlarge state park and forest recreation and camp

site areas, improve and increase fish and game habitats, set up a youth conservation corps, protect landscapes, build new lakes, aid cities in creating parks on their edges, and promote tourism.

Governor Nelson proposed that the program be financed by a 1 cent increase in the cigarette tax.

Municipal Water Pollution -- The Surgeon General, United States Public Health Service, recently announced results of a survey indicating that 5,200 new municipal sewage treatment plants and additions, to cost \$2 billion, are needed. The survey, conducted by the Conference of State Sanitary Engineers, covered municipal water pollution control needs in municipalities of forty-eight states, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and the District of Columbia.

TRAFFIC CONTROL, SAFETY

Driver Register -- Rex M. Whitton, Federal Highway Administrator, recently announced that twenty-one states and the District of Columbia have agreed to cooperate in the National Driver Register Service to be maintained by the Bureau of Public Roads.

States agreeing to participate included Arizona, Colorado, Connecticut, Idaho, Iowa, Indiana, Maine, Maryland, Montana, New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, Virginia and Washington.

The driver register is a file of motor vehicle operators whose licenses have been withdrawn for driving while intoxicated or on conviction for a violation involving a traffic fatality. Information contained in the file will be made available to state motor vehicle administrators on request in order to prevent drivers who have lost their licenses in one state from being licensed in another. The register service is expected to get under way July 1.

Mr. Whitton also announced that he has recommended to Congress an amendment to the Driver Register Law that would permit more states to take part. The proposed amendment would enable states which "suspend" licenses to participate, as well as states which "revoke" licenses.

Implied Consent -- The Minnesota legislature has approved three major traffic safety bills in its 1961 session.

One provides for control of motorists whose drivers' licenses have been suspended or revoked. Under the measure judges will impound the license plates of a driver caught driving while his license is suspended or revoked. Minnesota judges have had this power for several years on an optional basis.

The new law makes the impoundment of plates mandatory when such an offense is committed.

Under another enactment a driver charged with drunken driving may be asked to submit to a test of blood alcohol. If he refuses his driver's license can be taken away for six months; the driver, however, can demand a court hearing, with right to appeal for a jury hearing.

A third new law permits a number of highway patrol cars to carry only small door shields for identification.

Alcohol Level Established -- The North Dakota legislature has enacted a law establishing .10 per cent blood alcohol as the level at which drivers are presumed to be under the influence of alcohol. The law follows a recommendation of the National Safety Council's Committee on Alcohol and Drugs. Existing legislation in thirty-two states designates .15 per cent as the level over which all drivers can be presumed generally impaired. Seventeen states have no chemical test legislation.

North Dakota's chemical test law was amended to provide that an arresting officer shall determine which of the tests for body fluids or breath shall be used. The legislature also added a section on liability. It provides that a physician, nurse or technician who draws blood at the request of an officer will not be liable for damages in a civil action, except for gross negligence.

AIR POLLUTION CONTROL

California's program to reduce air pollution from motor vehicle exhaust has moved from a programming into an initial testing phase.

The State Motor Vehicle Pollution Control Board, established in July 1960 by a special session of the legislature (*State Government News*, May 1960, p. 3), has announced that some fifteen applicants for certification of automobile exhaust control devices have been asked to submit prototypes for initial screening. There is no deadline on applications, but within a year of certification of two or more control devices, all new cars sold will have to be equipped with the approved apparatus. Older cars will come under the program by the end of the third year, except in counties that elect not to participate and can show they have no air pollution problem.

The board said the initial evaluation will eliminate from further testing devices that do not reduce emission of hydrocarbons by at least 80 per cent and carbon monoxide by 60 per cent below current exhaust levels. The designer of each control attachment that passes the initial screening will be asked to furnish twenty-five prototypes

for testing throughout their claimed lives, which some designers have established at 20,000 miles. Other criteria to be considered during this period, such as cost, durability and operating temperatures, are being determined by the board.

CHARITIES LEGISLATION

A new Minnesota law, effective July 1, makes it illegal for a charity to solicit money in Minnesota without registering first with the Secretary of State. If the law is ignored the Attorney General can obtain a court injunction to stop a fund drive.

The enactment requires a charity to file a state registration form listing officers and the structure of the organization, its purpose for soliciting and the methods to be used. It also requires the charity to submit annually financial statements audited by a certified public accountant, detailing receipts and expenses, including money paid for professional fund raising.

Any fund raising after July 1 must be preceded by registration. The initial registration also must include a financial statement. After July 1, financial reports will be issued six months following the close of the organization's annual books. Fees are \$10 for registration and \$5 for the financial statement.

THE COURTS

Loyalty Oath -- The Washington State Supreme Court has reaffirmed and amplified a 1959 ruling upholding the constitutionality of a state law requiring public employees to sign an oath that they are not members of the Communist Party or any other organization advocating violent overthrow of the government (*State Government News*, March, 1959).

Expanding on an earlier ruling that the act does not deny free speech, and that the state has a right to require an anti-subversive oath as a condition of employment, the Justices in an 8 to 1 decision held that absence of provision for a hearing before dismissal does not constitute denial of due process. While an employee refusing to sign an oath is not entitled to a hearing under the act itself, the Court said, he is entitled to a hearing if his contract of employment provides for one prior to dismissal.

Amplification of the earlier ruling was made at the request of the United States Supreme Court, where the issue of denial of due process in the absence of a provision for hearing had been raised by two university of Washington professors challenging the state loyalty act. In acceding to the request, the State Supreme Court questioned whether there was a case to be decided, since the professors had not actually refused to

sign the loyalty act. The State Justices also noted that under ordinary circumstances they would have ruled that the question of a hearing could not be raised at this time because it had not been brought forward when the case was heard previously in the state. Nevertheless, the State Supreme Court held that while the professors were not entitled to a hearing under the loyalty act itself, they were entitled to a hearing before the University Tenure Committee if they refused to sign the oath.

Court Bar Decisions -- The United States Supreme Court on April 24 held that a state may exclude from the practice of law an applicant who will not answer questions about communism, and may disbar a lawyer who will not respond to an inquiry into "ambulance chasing."

The Court divided 5 to 4 in three cases from California, Illinois and New York. Two cases involved bar applicants in California and Illinois who refused to answer questions concerning communism. In one case the Court said the state is entitled to answers of questions on character. In another it held it was not unconstitutional to exclude an applicant for refusal to answer questions about his associations.

The third case was one of disbarment. It concerned a lawyer called to testify before a New York inquiry into "ambulance chasing," the seeking out of business from injured persons. The lawyer declined to testify and the court disbarred him. The Supreme Court held that disbarment could be struck down only if the inquiry had so little justification as to deny due process of law. The majority opinion said that the state clearly had enough interest in lawyers' misconduct to demand answers to their questions.

DEVELOPMENT AND GROWTH

Governor Farris Bryant of Florida has established a Council on Economic Development to collect and compile all information vital to the state's economic development.

The council includes five citizens from different sections of the state. Ex officio members include the directors of a number of state agencies, the Presidents of the University of Florida and Florida State University, and the President of the State Association of Certified Public Accountants.

Chief function of the council will be to gather statistics and other information on tourism. In setting up the council the Governor emphasized that tourism, involving millions of customers and affecting the livelihood of 65 per cent of the state's citizens, should be operated with adequate knowledge of its character, history and potential.

Governor Bryant also has appointed a twenty-member advisory committee to deal with problems arising from rapid community growth. The committee will study housing needs, building codes, land use patterns, recreational facilities, and related subjects.

LEGISLATURES

Legislators' Deductions -- The Internal Revenue Service has issued a ruling concerning the treatment, for federal income tax purposes, of travel and transportation expenses, incurred by state legislators having no other trade or business. Basic import of the new ruling is that a state legislator having no other trade or business may treat the district which he represents as his principal place of business for income tax purposes, depending on the time spent at the state capital. This would permit a legislator having no other trade or business to deduct as a business expense all expenses incurred while acting in his official capacity at the state capital. In determining whether the area which a legislator represents or the state capital is a principal or minor post of duty for tax purposes depends primarily, the Internal Revenue Service says, upon the length of time the legislator is usually required to spend at each of the locations for business purposes.

The Internal Revenue Service previously has recognized these deductions for business expenses by legislators who do have a trade or business in the district they represent. The new ruling means that the IRS will now recognize the same deductions for legislators who have retired from a business or trade.

House Reapportionment -- The North Carolina House of Representatives has approved a reapportionment plan for its membership. The House was last apportioned in 1941. The vote on reapportionment was unanimous.

Reapportionment Survey -- The South Dakota Legislative Research Council has published a memorandum on reapportionment which describes past apportionment measures and an act passed by the 1961 session of the legislature.

The report discusses the reasons for reapportionment and points out that in one-fourth of the states a specific constitutional provision calls for some type of enforcement of periodic or otherwise equitable redistricting. Of this number, five states, including South Dakota, have commissions or boards composed of state officials empowered to reapportion if the legislature fails to do so. A South Dakota Reapportionment Board has never been activated; the legislature has

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reapportioned in 1937, 1947, 1951 and 1961. The council report presents tables indicating the ideal population each Senator or Representative should represent after reapportionment. It also indicates deviation from the ideal in each district.

Redistricting Commission -- Governor J. Lindsay Almond of Virginia has appointed a twenty-member commission to study the problem of Congressional and state legislative districting in light of the 1960 census. The commission is composed of ten legislators and ten business and professional leaders representing each of the state's ten Congressional districts.

As the state's Congressional representation has not been changed by the 1960 census, the chief districting problem is with the State Senate and the House of Delegates, in view of population shifts in urban and suburban areas. The commission is scheduled to report to the Governor in advance of the 1962 legislative session.

UNIFORM COMMERCIAL CODE

The University of Wyoming's College of Law recently held a two-day conference for business and professional men on the topic of the Uniform Commercial Code. The legislature adopted the Code at its recently adjourned regular 1961 session.

The conference is part of the college's continuing legal education service. Purpose

of the conference was to acquaint the business and legal community with the major provisions of the Code. It revises and replaces many previous laws including the Negotiable Instrument Law, the Sales Act, the Warehouse Receipts Act, the Stock Transfer Act and other statutes covering bills of lading, bulk sales, chattel mortgages and acknowledgement of accounts receivable.

CHEMICAL WARFARE RESOLUTION

The California legislature has urged Congress to consider accelerating the development of non-lethal chemicals and to explore the possibilities of their use as an effective and humane means for dealing with limited wars.

The legislature approved a joint resolution urging Congress "to give serious consideration to the possibilities of welding the Chemical Warfare Corps into an effective operating force, especially in the use of non-lethal gases, and to inform the American people as to the true value and humane nature of the use of chemical agents in limited warfare."

The measure was introduced by Assemblyman Charles J. Conrad, a veteran of service in the Chemical Corps during World War II. It suggests that chemical agents causing temporary incapacity without dangerous or lasting effects already are available and offer the best means of striking at the enemy without destroying life or property, particularly civilians friendly to our side.

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